ROBERT KIRKMAN CHARLIE ADLARD DAVE McCAIG

THE WALKING DEAD

DELU

30 EST. 1992 image 44 AUG

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FINCH

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ANTERIORMENTE:

El Gobernador sobrevivió por muy poco a su encuentro con Michonne. Su recuperación fue lenta, y cuando planeaba su venganza contra Rick y el grupo en la prisión, Woodbury sufrió más bajas. Un plan muy esperado se ha cocinado a fuego lento, hasta que ha llegado el momento de atacar.

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¡YA!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!

¡AL SUELO!

¡TODO EL MUNDO AL SUELO YA!

¡¿QUÉ ESTÁS HAC--?!

¡AL SUELO!

¡ANDREA!

¡PARA!

PTING!

¡LORI!

¡LORI!

¡LORI!

¿QUÉ ESTÁ PASANDO? ¿ESO SON DISPAROS? ¿QUÉ HACE ANDREA?

¡¿DÓNDE ESTÁN LOS CRÍOS?!

PATRICIA LOS ESTÁ VIGILANDO--ESTÁN EN EL GIMNASIO. TENÍA QUE HACER PIS, ASÍ QUE LA DEJÉ--¿QUÉ PASA, RICK?

ESTÁN AQUÍ.

¿QUIÉN, RICK? ¿QUIÉN ESTÁ AQUÍ?

VE A POR LOS CRÍOS... LLÉVATE A PATRICIA. COGED COMIDA, BASTANTE PARA UNA O DOS SEMANAS PARA TODOS VOSOTROS... CARGADLO EN UNO DE LOS CARRITOS DE LIBROS DE LA BIBLIOTECA.

LLEVAOS LA COMIDA Y ENCERRAOS EN UN BAÑO-- EN UNO DE LOS NIVELES INFERIORES, TENDRÉIS AGUA. OCULTAOS ALLÍ-- SI OÍS ALGO, *NO* SALGÁIS.

ESA GENTE NO SABE CUÁNTOS SOMOS. TIENES QUE IRTE--

¡VETE YA!

RICK, NO PUEDES-- ¡TIENES QUE VENIR CONMIGO! NO ME DEJES--POR FAVOR.

TENDRÉ CUIDADO. TODO SALDRÁ *BIEN*. PERO ESCONDEOS. NO PUEDO IR CONTIGO-- ELLOS ME CONOCEN-- Y *ME* BUSCARÁN. SI CONSIGUEN TIRAR LAS VALLAS, TODO SE HABRÁ ACABADO-- ESCONDEOS UN RATO Y LUEGO HUID.

MANTÉN A LOS CRÍOS A SALVO.

¡RICK!

¡RICK!

DAME ESO.

¡ALTO EL FUEGO!

A TODOS LOS QUE QUEDEN VIVOS ADENTRO--ESTA ES VUESTRA ÚLTIMA OPORTUNIDAD PARA SALIR DE ÉSTA CON VIDA. NO HARÉ UNA SEGUNDA OFERTA.

NOS HABÉIS MATADO Y MUTILADO-- Y AHORA OS ESCONDÉIS TRAS VUESTRAS VALLAS, PERO SE OS ACABÓ EL TIEMPO. OS MOSTRAREMOS COMPASIÓN, PERO SOLO CON UNA CONDICIÓN.

ABRID LA PUERTA INTERIOR. REUNID TODAS VUESTRAS ARMAS, TODAS LAS PISTOLAS, LA MUNICIÓN, LOS CUCHILLOS, LO QUE TENGÁIS--LOS TRAJES ANTIDISTURBIOS, *TODO*. AMONTONADLO ANTE LA PUERTA INTERIOR.

LUEGO QUIERO QUE CERRÉIS LA PUERTA CON LLAVE Y ESPERÉIS MIENTRAS ELIMINAMOS A LOS MORDEDORES.

NO TENEMOS POR QUÉ MATARNOS ENTRE NOSOTROS... AÚN PODEMOS TRABAJAR JUNTOS.

HACED LO QUE DIGO, ABRID LAS PUERTAS.

ESTA ES VUESTRA ÚLTIMA POR-TUNIDAD.

HIJOS DE PUTA.

NO LO PONDRÁN FÁCIL.

¡REANUDAD EL ATAQUE!

PKOW!

¡FALLÉ!

¡¡PUTO CASCO!!

5

WHUDD!

¡OOF!

¡MIERDA!

PKOW!

LA TORRE-- ¡ESTÁN EN LA MALDITA TORRE!

¿DÓNDE?

PKOW!

ESTO ES OTRA COSA...

PKOW!

¡ALLÍ!

¡A LA IZQUIER-DA!

¡¡OH, JODER!!

PTING!

PKLINK!

PTING!

PTAKK!

PTING!

BLAM!

¡¿Y BIEN?! ¿QUERÉIS UNA MEDALLA?

CARGAOS A TODOS ESOS MORDEDORES ANTES DE QUE VENGAN A POR NOSOTROS.

¡BLAM! ¡BLAM! ¡BLAM! ¡BLAM! ¡BLAM!

TENEMOS UN PROBLEMA.

¿QUÉ PROBLEMA?

NO TENEMOS MUNICIÓN PARA ESTO.

ESTA GENTE TIENE ***MUY MALA*** PUNTERÍA. CUALQUIER MORDEDOR QUE MATEN A ESTA DISTANCIA SERÁ POR PURA SUERTE. LES ESTAMOS ACRIBILLANDO CON DOCENAS DE BALAS EN EL CUERPO Y ESO NO SIRVE DE NADA.

PODRÍAMOS TIRARNOS TODO EL DÍA HACIENDO ESTO... Y NOS COSTARÍA DEMASIADA MUNICIÓN.

¿Y TÚ QUÉ PROPONES?

¿POR QUÉ NO PASAMOS EL TANQUE POR ENCIMA DE LAS VALLAS?

IDIOTA-- ¡¿DE QUÉ SERVIRÍA ESTE LUGAR SIN LAS VALLAS?!

¡ALTO!

¡ALTO!

¡ALTO EL FUEGO!

HAN DEJADO DE DISPARAR.

¿NOS QUEDAMOS EN EL SUELO? ¿QUÉ HACEMOS?

SEGUID AGACHADOS. ACERCAOS-- TENEMOS QUE SOLUCIONAR ESTO.

ANDREA HA DEJADO DE DISPARAR--HA *PARADO.*

NO SABEMOS LO QUE HA PASADO-- ANDREA PODRÍA ESTAR BIEN. NO PODEMOS DARLE VUELTAS.

HAN DEJADO DE DISPARAR... ¿QUÉ DEBERÍAMOS *HACER?*

¡DEBERÍAMOS HUIR! TENEMOS QUE TRATAR DE ESCAPAR. NO TIENEN CUBIERTOS TODOS LOS FLANCOS DE LA PRISIÓN-- ¡AÚN PODEMOS ESCAPAR!

¡NO!

PODRÍAN HABERLO PLANEADO. *AQUÍ* ESTAMOS MÁS SEGUROS. NO IREMOS A NINGUNA PARTE.

TENGO QUE LLEGAR AL OTRO LADO DE LA VALLA.

AQUÍ NO PUEDO HACER NADA--PERO AHÍ FUERA, CON ELLOS, PODRÍA HACERLES DAÑO.

¡NO, JODER! ¡NO!

SI SALES DE AQUÍ--SI PASAS AL OTRO LADO DE ESAS VALLAS--*¡MORIRÁS!* FRANCAMENTE, EN ESTE MOMENTO TE *NECESITAMOS* DEMASIADO. TENEMOS QUE DECIDIR AHORA MISMO QUE VAMOS A COLABORAR--O ESTAMOS TODOS MUERTOS...

¡DESDE YA!

TIENE RAZÓN, CHICA. TE NECESITAMOS AQUÍ--ESTE NO ES MOMENTO PARA MISIONES SUICIDAS.

¡VAYA MIERDA!

AQUÍ ESTAMOS JODIDOS, ¡¿ME SIGUES?!

QUE TODO EL MUNDO SE CALME. TENEMOS QUE PENSAR EN ALGOS ANTES DE QUE VUELVAN A ATACAR.

NECESITAMOS QUE ALGUIEN SUBA A ESA TORRE ENFRENTE DE LA DE ANDREA... NECESITAMOS MÁS POTENCIA DE FUEGO AHÍ ARRIBA.

MAGGIE, CREO QUE DEBERÍAS IR ADENTRO--Y BUSCAR A ALICE PARA QUE REVISE A ANDREA... TENEMOS QUE ASEGURARNOS DE QUE ESTÁ--

OH, DIOS.

¡¿QUÉ ES *ESO?!*

VHHH

VALE, LA ZONA ESTÁ LO BASTANTE DESPEJADA-- DISPARADLES. ¡DISPARADLES A TODOS, JODER!

TERMINEMOS CON ESTO-- ¡YA!

¡AL SUELO!

¡TODOS AL SUELO!

BRAKK!

BRAKK!

BRAKK!

BRAKK!

¡ARRGH!

¡TENEMOS QUE ENTRAR!

¡AQUÍ NO HAY NINGÚN LUGAR PARA CUBRIRSE!

¡AHORA LOS TENEMOS ACORRALADOS! ¡ES SOLO CUESTIÓN DE TIEMPO!

CONSIGAMOS UN PAR DE MUERTES EN NUESTRO HABER Y LUEGO VEAMOS SI ESTÁN LISTOS PARA RENDIRSE.

PTING!

¡¿QUÉ ESTOY HACIENDO?! YO NO SIRVO PARA ESTO.

BILLY DEBERÍA ESTAR AQUÍ--*ÉL* SABE DISPARAR. ¡NO LE ESTOY DANDO ABSOLUTAMENTE A NADA! *¿POR QUÉ* HE HECHO ESTO?

PKOW! PKOW!

¡MIERDA!

SKREESH!!

BLAM! BLAM!

¡GLENN!

TENEMOS QUE ENTRAR MIENTRAS ESTÁN DISTRAÍDOS-- ¡ES NUESTRA ÚNICA OCASIÓN!

¡VAMOS!

¡SOLO NECESITAMOS QUE UNOS CUANTOS DISPARÉIS AHÍ ARRIBA PARA MATAR A ESE IMBÉCIL! LOS DEMÁS INTENTAN ENTRAR EN LA PRISIÓN.

¡DETENEDLES!

¡UFF!

¡OH, JODER!

A LA MIERDA.

¡MI ARMA!

COMO SI TÚ SUPIERAS USARLA PARA ALGO.

BLAM! BLAM!

BLAM! BLAM!

UNGH.

JODER.

NO RECORDABA QUE UN DISPARO DOLIERA *TANTO.*

¡PONEOS A CUBIERTO! ¡NOS DEVUELVEN LOS TIROS!

PONEOS DETRÁS DE LOS COCHES.

¡MIERDA!

¡NO TENGO UN TIRO CLARO DE ESE PUTO CABRÓN!

SUPONGO QUE TENDRÉ QUE CONFORMARME CON PRESAS *MÁS PEQUEÑAS.*

PLAKK!

SPAKK!

SPUKK!

PLOKK!

SPLUDD!

CORRED, CABRONES, CORRED.

¡ESTÁ VIVA, DALE!
GRACIAS A DIOS.
CREO QUE PODEMOS SOBREVIVIR A ESTO.
BLAM! BLAM!
¡GLENN!
GLENN.
PKOW! PKOW!
PKOW! PKOW!
JODER. ESTAMOS PERDIENDO A DEMASIADOS MUY RÁPIDO.
¡JODER!

¡RETI-RADA!

¡HAY QUE REAGRU-PARSE!

ESTO NO ESTÁ FUNCIONANDO-- ¡ESTA MIERDA *NO ESTÁ FUNCIO-NANDO!*

WRAKK!

¡¿PERO QUÉ COÑO--?!

¡SUBE AL PUTO CAMIÓN!

HUH. SE HAN RENDIDO. HEMOS *GANADO.*

NO. VOLVERÁN--Y LO PRIMERO QUE HARÁN SERÁ DISPARAR A LAS TORRES CON AQUEL JODIDO TANQUE.

CREO QUE NO ESTABAN PREPARADOS *DEL TODO* PARA QUE LES DEVOLVIÉRAMOS EL GOLPE... LA PRÓXIMA VEZ ESTARÁN PREPARADOS.

GLENN.

TENEMOS QUE SUBIR A LA CARAVANA Y SEGUIRLOS--TENEMOS QUE ATACAR AHORA--MIENTRAS QUE NO LO ESPEREN.

SI CARGAMOS TODO LO QUE TRAJIMOS DEL DEPÓSITO--SI COGEMOS EL CAMIÓN Y LA CARAVANA... Y TAL VEZ LOS AUTOBUSES DE LA PRISIÓN...

¿ESTÁS LOCA? LA VALLA ES LO ÚNICO QUE NOS HA SALVADO HOY--SI VAMOS TRAS ELLOS, ESTAMOS *ACABADOS.*

AÚN NOS SUPERAN EN NÚMERO--¡¿Y ACASO NO VISTE EL TANQUE?!

VI UN TANQUE QUE APENAS SABÍAN *CONDUCIR.* ¿CREES QUE SABEN CÓMO CARGARLO Y DISPARAR?

ESE ARMATOSTE ERA SOLO PARA IMPRESIONAR.

NO SÉ, TÍOS... PUEDE QUE ELLA TENGA RAZÓN.

VALE--¿ESTÁIS TODOS BIEN? CON LOS DISPAROS--NO PODÍA SALIR AQUÍ, ¡¿QUIÉN NECESITA AYUDA?!

POR AQUÍ. Y MUCHA.

ÉSTE ESTÁ BIEN--NI UN SOLO AGUJERO.

¡AYUDA!

¡NECESITAMOS AYUDA!

ESTOY BIEN, YO--

¡IRK!

WHUMP!

AGUAN-TAD-- ¡YA VOY!

VAMOS... QUE ALGUIEN ME AYUDE A LLEVARLA ADENTRO.

YO NO PUEDO CON EL BRAZO DESTROZADO. TAMBIÉN NECESITO PRIMEROS AUXILIOS--¿ME SIGUES?

¿RICK?

¡OH, DIOS!

¡HAN DADO A RICK!

07

WRITE TO US AT: **WALKINGDEAD@SKYBOUND.COM**

Hello, Letter Hacks, your faithful editor Amanda here! As Robert will mention below, this is the start of some new territory for THE WALKING DEAD. No one was safe before, but that's doubly accurate after this next batch of issues. If you're reading for the first time – you've been warned; and if you're re-reading the series – I'm sorry that you'll be reliving this emotional stress (but also, it's kind of your own choosing). While you anxiously await to find out if Rick survives, enjoy some classic Hacks from back in the day.

Here we are at issue 44. This one kicks off the whole "NO ONE IS SAFE" arc of the book that'll be bringing us through issue 48. Big stuff is planned. The book will be drastically different here in a few months, you watch.

That's about all I want to say on the matter, other than get ready for the shit to hit the fan (much more than it already has).

Now let's answer some mail!

Yeah, I guess you probably do get tired of email after email telling you how great you are. It sure seems like a real love fest between you and your fans. I can't even get my Mother to say nice things about me.

I really don't... please--keep it coming.

If it makes you feel better, I don't think you're so hot. I mean, you're ok and all. I do dig The Walking Dead and a few of your other books on a monthly basis. Battle Pope was really a swell idea. Anyway, the point of my letter is to let you know that The Walking Dead has really been dragging as of late. Nothing has really been going on much at all. Something needs to happen. I don't think I can take another issue of the gang just hanging out and looking cool. I mean, send them out exploring or something. Let them find a new town or a new group of people. The last 3 or 4 issues have been pretty much just a big bundle of fluff. Your stories always seem to move a little slower than most comics, but enough is enough. I love the book, but it needs to start moving forward.

Thanks for your time,
Jeffrey Gibson

Well, things ARE picking up, I hope, starting this issue. That said, I don't think this book moves slower than most comics just because a super-villain isn't busting through a wall every eight pages. While it might be lacking in action, this is a book about normal characters and I think the things that have been happening in the book have been important to the overall arc of the characters. That said, like I said before--things are picking up now.

Hello.

I've come to interrupt your regularly broadcasted sausage-fest to NOT talk about Michonne's rape, racism, and how apparently being an atheist is wrong in a comic book about lost morals and dead people eating living people. I mean, seriously boys, stop whining! I want to first thank you for finally having Carol snap. While I have come to care about these characters probably a little bit more than is considered healthy, Carol needed to go. She was a loose cannon and nobody else was making any moves toward complete insanity, so kudos. Though I hardly need to congratulate you on writing awesome story arcs, it seems to be one of the things you do best. I can't really describe what it's like, as a fan of your work, to be waiting in agony to see if a two dimensional apparition delivers a healthy baby, or survives a non-existent bite to the leg. I'm sure my boyfriend would be afraid for my own mental health if he wasn't also completely roped in.

I am currently an illustration major who's trying to focus in sequential art and that who-ha, and while I'm not sure if I'll end up writing comics, storyboards, being a world renowned chef or joining the circus, it's nice to have something to look at that gives me an air of confidence. I don't get a lot of support for my own work at home, while my skill is not in question, I think I just scare my parents with the idea that I like drawing flesh eating zombies and silly, but often vulgar pictures. I'm not twisted, I don't wear raccoon eye makeup and feign despair, I'm a happy chick, I just have a flare for the demented. Have you encountered this problem, or is it a lost daddy's little girl thing only? I don't expect you to hold the answer as if you're Yoda himself, but hell, you'd have a better perspective than me at this point. I usually hate writing letters like this, essentially a fan letter, but from your responses to other letters, you seem like a stand up guy.

Yeah, I'm totally awesome. And also yeah, I think it's a girl thing.

I guess the only other thing I wanted to say was I felt an air of Day of the Dead in issue 41, and that rules. Whether it was intended or not, it certainly wasn't cheesy, as your work is consistently tasteful (given the genre). You're going places, mister! The best of luck to you!

Erin Leary

Well, Day is my favorite Romero movie--and zombie movie, so yeah... can't really help it if some things seep in. It wasn't intentional.

P.S. If you haven't seen Hot Fuzz, you should.

Seen it, loved it, bought the DVD and will soon buy the bigger more expensive DVD for the extras because I am a sucker.

Just read issue 41, NICE. Ever since I finished the issue, I've been thinking about the way the story unfolded. I finally decided to just go ahead and send in my question. As I witnessed Carol's, in essence, downward spiral I immediately thought she was going to kill herself. When I finished the issue, I initially thought you had tipped your hand too much and almost gave away the fact that she was finally going all the way off the deep end. The foreshadowing of her settling up with Lori, arranging for her daughter's care, and her last fuck all seemed to eagerly point to her preparing to die. As I reflected more though (My mind tends to wander at work) I recalled that I was still very tense as I saw her walking towards the captured zombie, and still shocked as she let the zombie bite her. The method was enough of a jolt to shake me from the comfort of knowing her death was coming.

Now I'm stuck in kind of a rut wondering if you had intended to lead us along realizing what she was planning to do; still being shocked and disgusted by the irrationality and bizarreness of the manner in which she chooses to commit suicide. On the other hand, as I mentioned before, it just might have been an instance of over-foreshadowing, intending us to merely feel that something just wasn't right (of course you'll probably never admit to it :D). I'd be interested in understanding the process you were going through writing this series of events.

Regardless, this book is my favorite of the books I'm currently reading. It's one of the only things keeping me interested in an industry I feel has become stagnant with never ending, unevolving, cliched super hero books.

So, until the "Zombie Season" on LOST, or Rick and the gang become stranded on a mystical island, keep up the awesome work,

John

Well, I wasn't so much trying to telegraph that she was about to commit suicide as much as I was just showing her tying up the loose ends... I wanted people to see that something was not quite right with her (as it has been for some time) and I was actually trying to give a bit of a sense, with her talk with Lori, that things were getting back to normal between them (or close to it). If you did see it coming, I'm glad the method, at the very least, was a bit of a shock.

Dear Mr "took my writing a letter to a comic virginity and never printed it" Kirkman,

You bastard. God damn you. Why did you have to go and say that you listen to the Dirty Three. Truly one of the best bands on the planet. Now I cannot stay angry at you as you obviously have got great tastes and also I suppose because your writing is just so bloody good.

Just came back from holidays and after picking up my standing order was nicely surprised to have issues №39 to №41 sitting there waiting for me to read. And boy they didn't disappoint.

In issue №40 where Rick turns back to Lori after just hacking Dales foot and goes "this world , this fucking world" and Lori still centered on the baby just looks at him and then looking happy says "think we should name her Judith" was absolutely brilliant.
Such warmth and humour after such a brutal scene was pure gold.

I see Rick is still on a bit of a power trip. Takes over from Alice (basically pushing her out of the way) and hacks Dales foot off and then in №41 decides he will kill the groups "pet zombie" His, I know what is best for everyone and I will do it attitude is starting to remind me of Shane. I still love the guy and know he's been through a lot and has every one's best interests at heart but hey they made a committee and he isn't and doesn't have to be the leader and solely responsible for everything. Maybe running on testosterone and stupidity as he says. Maybe the new baby will chill him out a bit.
I think Dale is tripping that Andrea is looking to move on. Sure she said some things when he came to but not seriously. But you never know with you Kirkman, you sly devil. Let's hope that Tyreese can keep it in his pants if she makes a play.

A couple of letters (in issue №39 and №41) asked about using names more. You explained, quite logically, in №39 that would not be natural every time one person talked to another that they say their name. Excluding the now 5 young kids, there's only 13 (I think) main characters, 12 after that lovely ending to poor deluded Carol. Charlie's facial details of the characters is so much better than it used to be and after 4 years of reading I find it surprising that you

would need a name supplied as to know who the character is. But I only collect TWD and 2 other comics (Usagi and The Goon) so maybe if you get a lot more comics every month it is harder. Don't know but just wanted to add my piece and ask not to be too over flooded with names.

I'm with you, but I will be trying to drop names in where it is natural... maybe a bit more often than before. \ Hopefully it won't be too noticeable.

Any special plans when issue №50 done? The missus cooking you your favourite meal, taking you out for a bit of a pub crawl or anything like that?

Just writing issue 51 and keeping the run going.

Congrats on the new addition to the Kirkman clan and for breaking into the top 100 and thank you and all the team for such an enjoyable read every month. Hoping to see this in print.

A fan for life
Joel Boyes

New addition? My son is a year and a half old now! Thanks though... but he'd be offended by being called "new."

Even if you don't print this please respond.

I just got the mailer today with WD issue №40. Love it. But I also received the Ultimate Spider-man 100 Project.

It was a great compilation of artwork that did include some of Arthur's work from Marvel zombies. I was a bit disappointed because I didn't see any of Charlie's work in there and to top it off there were several covers by the same artists. A few of them looked rushed as well. I have only come to one conclusion. You bastard... you worked poor Charlie to death and he wasn't able to participate with this fantastic project by the hero initiative. I hope you sleep well on your pile of money. I'm bipolar so that being said, keep cranking them out ASAP. We can't get enough.
Later Cap'n Rob.
Chris Deluna

I think it's as simple as Charlie just wasn't asked. Charlie's always doing side projects here and there and always asking me for more script--so trust me, I'm not working him too hard.

Dear Kirkman,

This is the first letter I ever wrote to a comic book letter page, But for this series I think it's about time I do, Walking Dead is the best comic book I read in a long time it's like watching a good tv drama you always want to know what will happen next. I also enjoy Invincible it would be cool if you do a Invincible and walking dead crossover just for the hell of it but that's up to you.

Sincerely,
Mason Miller

A crossover? I'm sorry--but there will NEVER be a crossover between THE WALKING DEAD--and a superhero book.

That is a very true statement, that the Roamers are slow as all hell, but when you are thinking they are not a threat, then you're deader than a door nail. Well, it wasn't put exactly that way in your story, but these survivors need to always be aware of their surroundings.

Great advice to watch the zombies patterns and how they move about. This is good leadership advice. I was completely shocked at Carol, she is truly crazy as all hell to confront that zombie. The bite out of her neck, left me gagging.

Paul Dale Roberts

Good... gagging is good. Glad to see I got a reaction from you.

Robert,

First off I just want to say congratulations for releasing consecutive issues of The Walking Dead in a two week span! When I saw Diamond had listed №41 for the following week after №40 was just released I believed it had to be a mistake and would be corrected the following Monday. But surprise, surprise, come Wednesday №41 was pulled for me. Hopefully a steady monthly schedule isn't too far behind because, recently, my interest has waned in standard super hero fare and my pull-list has taken a hit as a result. I've only been reading comics for a few years and mature, character driven titles such as The Walking Dead, along with any comic written by Ed Brubaker, are all that are left to maintain my interest in the hobby.

So after №41's astonishing ending, where does The Walking Dead go from here? A lot of the loose ends have been tied up in the last two issues with only one noticeable new one being created. Glen and Maggie got married, Lori's baby was born apparently healthy, Dale survived the zombie bite, and Carol finally...

Aside, the looming attack by the residents of Woodsbury and Dale's fear of losing Andrea, any hints as to where were heading next?

That looming attack was a big one...

I can't remember the last issue it was in but the character profile pages have been missing for quite some time! You said you removed them so they can be updated... Are they ever coming back?

They're very time consuming to put together and there's a bunch of new characters to list and I haven't had time. Eventually... I hope... but for now I just don't have time.

Don't disappoint me and end The Walking Dead anytime soon! I'm looking forward to a second omnibus shortly after the release of issue №48 and countless others after that. Also, there is only one way to do The Walking Dead series justice if it was ever to be made into a movie or television series; An HBO ongoing series! If done right that would be absolutely astounding.

Keep up the amazing work,
Mike Somma

I don't plan on ending this book any time remotely soon. So don't worry. The second Omnibus will be released with summer 2008 or before Christmas 2008, it'll have 25-48. I'm still deciding on when it will be out--but it will be out.

Hello again, Kirkman. Another week, another TWD... Let's keep this pace up, okay?? I need more zombie goodness every week! Seriously though, thanks for pointing out that you're only 5 issues behind after 4 years.

That's really not bad nowadays. I wouldn't even notice if you didn't mention it in the lettercol just about every month... ;-)

Well, I don't mention it as much as letter writers mention it. I'm not going to apologize for it anymore, I think we've shipped more issues in our time than any other independent book in recent memory. 7 TPB volumes in 4 years is pretty damn good, I think.

Another fine issue here. Carol is one messed up broad! I don't think I ever realized quite how deranged she really is... I didn't expect her to try to off herself again so soon, although I did think you telegraphed it a few pages earlier when she asked Lori if she'd take care of Sophia. I can't believe Lori let her just walk away at that point... How could she not know something like this was coming? It doesn't look like there's any hope of saving her now, but I thought that with Dale too... I'm interested to see if you find a plausible way of saving Carol now.

Keep in mind this isn't normal every day life we're talking about. Every one of these characters expect to die at some point--the odds are against them.

It's not odd at all for Carol to ask Lori to take care of Sophia if she dies. People are dropping like flies around them. I don't think Lori would give it a second thought.

Sorry to hear about Ant-Man being cancelled... I didn't even know it was ending until I read it in your letters page... That was a fun book. Sorry to see it go so soon...

Eh... before it's time, maybe? Who knows. Books come and go. If none of my series had ever ended I'd be writing fifty books right now or never would have been able to start something new (or I would have had to--gasp--quit a book).

I'm glad to see you're finally putting your racial arguments to rest in the letters page and moving on to your extreme hatred of religion instead.

HAH!

Progress at its finest! Maybe the name of Letter Hacks should be changed to Kirkman's Political Forum. :-) I agree with your view though. Organized religion is all well and good, but none for me, thanks.

So, issue 50 is going to be a major turning point, eh? Is this when the aliens finally come to wipe out the zombie menace? I've been looking forward to that for far too long...

No aliens in 50... maybe issue 75.

Out of curiousity, how far in advance does Charlie draw the covers for TWD?

Well, he drew the covers for 44-48 before he started issue 43... so a bit.

I noticed that Rick still has his stubble on this cover and on the cover for issue 42. Doesn't Charlie know he's drawing a clean- shaven Rick on the interiors?!? And speaking of Charlie, that reminds me - I have to go tell him to make me a zombie just like he did Jeff J!

Jim Amato

Well, the cover to 42 was drawn well in advance of the issue, usually 4 or maybe even 5 months before the issue is started. So they'll rarely be completely accurate. The job of a cover is to sell the book, though... not show you exactly what's inside, per se. Hell, half the time I use the covers to deliberately LIE to readers so they won't see what's coming. I mean, you wouldn't want a surprise given away on the cover--would you?

I don't care if this makes it to letter hacks or not but I demand vindication!

I recently purchased a handful of THE WALKING DEAD and it's the best goddamn comic I've read in ages... kudos! However, upon closer inspection of issue 27 April 2006, the first

8 pages are friggin repeated so in reality I have 16 pages of the same story with absolutely no closure and to top it off I have 6 repeated pages of letter hacks! (that could be 6 more pages of this awesome storyline but what can ya do) maybe this is the rare find of the century, either way it does me no good its a crucial part of the story and I have no closure, I need closure. I will gladly send it back for a new copy or perhaps a nice TPB :)

I believe the reader/writer relationship has been breached due to a faulty product and I expect at least confirmation that u have read and thought about my grievance.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration

If you send your copy of issue 27 to my brand spanking new P.O. Box I'll gladly mail you a replacement copy. And that goes for ANYONE with any kind of book that has such a printing error. Just include a note telling me what's what. What you've got here is a rare printing error that occurs all the time... it's just one of those things in the printing business.

Mr. Kirkman,

I finally tracked down some early issues of Invincible and took your letter column suggestions to heart. 1) Keep the praise to a minimum, 2) number questions and keep them relevant for letter- column readers, and 3) sign a name. I wanted to ask if those suggestions still stand, and if there's anything you would add.

Don't complain about that rape business or any perceived racial or religious bias... but that's not a hard and fast rule.

It seems like you've paced these last couple issues as a [relative] calm-before-the storm before all hell brakes loose with the revenge of the Woodburians (can't wait to see what happens there). I've enjoyed watching the characters develop and the small shockers like Dale getting bit in parallel with Lori's birth, and Carol offering herself first to Billy and then to the pet-zombie... a despairingly narcissistic yet martyr-like sacrifice. And then I laughed, because Carol getting bit at the end of 41 was also a very Sally Field moment... "you DO like me"!

Groan.

A few questions:

1) Where was Michonne in this issue? Talking to the voices again?

Taking a nap? It's a big prison.

2) The cover to 40 lost me. What is Rick splattered with blood and mouth agape about? Dale? And what is that open gash on his nose from? Just his old scar? I wonder if that's one problem with soliciting covers so far in advance...

Well, that was the exact same moment after he cut off Dale's leg—so the cover worked, it was one of the more literal covers. And yes, Rick still has the scar from his fight with Tyreese.

3) The cover to 41, however, was brilliant, because whenever it was solicited months ago I wondered... aw snap does Lori die in childbirth and become a zombie!?! But it's not Lori, it's zombie Barbie. I think you've done that sort of teaser with a lot of the covers and it's great. 27 is my favorite (the zombie reflections in the riot gear helmet), but it was too much to buy over at splashpageart.com and you know... doesn't look good in the living room with the Rodin theme and all.

Thanks? And... you should have bought that cover.

4) Where can I find me a SUPA CRIB like Glenn and Maggie? I need more Walking Dead merchandise.

Available at Wal-Marts everywhere.

Thanks for the ever-great reads,
-Brian Hans

Thanks for the letter.

Hey, Kirkman, thanks for printing my other letter a few issues back about ish 35.

I have a new and serious question for you, which I'm surprised no one has brought up yet.

Rick lost his right hand. Adlard keeps drawing him with his gun still slung on his right hip. How is a man supposed to draw and fire his sidearm without his hand?

True he could 'reach around', (insert your own prison joke) but this would be time consuming and deadly if needed his gun in a hurry.

Logically, he shoud wear his sidearm in a cross draw rig, or should switch it to his left side so he can draw it with his left hand. Or at the very least, turn the holster around so that the butt is out for his left hand to grab onto. maybe there is a shoulder holster in the armory.

Thanks for doing a super job.
Jerry Dickson.

Well, I don't know that there's a lot of quick draw action going on with Rick. I mean, right now, in the prison at least, there's not zombies jumping out from around corners- -he knows when he might need to use a gun--so he can have it drawn

in advance. Also, it slows things down a second or two, but really, reaching over to your other side isn't that hard.

True, the gun is backwards that way, but it would be backwards if he just spun the belt around to the other side too--and there's not a ton of gun belts lying around right now--so--he's kind of stuck with it right now.

Hello, Sir!

It is extremely exciting that you actually read through these fan letters and reply to them yourselves. Hell, I typically read what you write to people and decide based on that if I want to read what other people wrote. Let me get the kissing up out of the way because, sir, this comic/graphic novel/story is AMAZING! I love it. I am actually not even a comic reader...I have a strong interest in comic art and have collected a few comic №1 issues when that was all the craze (right when Spawn came out). Not to mention whole series of comic cards like Marvel's first three sets and it's Masterpiece series. But, I was much younger then and that was many years ago. So, last week I strolled into a comic book store with an avid reader of comics and saw your book. Being a huge fan of the zombie genre, I've heard people throw the name "The Walking Dead" around and knew I had to give it a read... well, I'm glad I did and it's almost sad that I have now caught up to your four long years of work. I even have the hardcovers coming in soon (book three - preordered).

Book three will be out soon.

Tony Moore's artwork from the beginning was amazing and since I got a late start in the series and was reading №6 and №7 back to back it was almost hard for me to accept the way Mr. Adlard was drawing the characters (especially Rick/Lori). But, I can definitely say that I love everything he has done and his art has been the perfect compliment to your amazing writing and story-telling skills. That Mr. Rathburn guy...he's not too shabby either.

Well, he's a little shabby... but only on weekends.

Mr. Rathburn is actually a huge part of why I'm writing to guys (you know, besides the fact that you guys and "The Walking Dead" are completely awesome). I love Rathburn's back cover art. His zombies are very fun to look over and intriguing at the same time. I tried to Google somewhere I could buy posters featuring his zombie artwork, but...no luck. I am definitely going to go out and pick up the poster you've been advertising in the book, but what about a giant, wide print featuring all those zombies Mr. Rathburn's been gracing us with on the back cover. Due to my late start, I know I've missed quite a few, but hopefully a full sized poster would fix that nicely. Hmmm...is it sick that I want to hang a poster of rotting corpses on my wall?

Not sick at all--I'll definitely think about it.

Mr. Kirkman, sir, thank you for your time reading this. What happened to your site, www.robertkirkman.com that funkotron points to? Also, I do dabble in some webdesign/graphic stuff... Maybe I can throw up an unofficial (or official?) fan page for you guys. I'm not so sure why I don't see many out there. Maybe they get lost in the Google searches. I just hope it'd be ok to use the images/covers for the page.

My site will actually be going live before the end of the year for sure... maybe much, much sooner!

Thanks again -- I don't write many fan letters (or any?) and I definitely have not written to a comic before! Hoping and anxious to hear a response.

Respectfully,
Chris Kuntz

You should write more often.

Hey, Kirkman, I know I just sent you email yesterday about Rick's hand / handgun, but I forgot to add another observation.

First off, good fake out on the front cover of 41. I thought for sure that the Zombie was supposed to be Rick's wife, and that she died of complications after the birth...the zombie does look like her, same type of clothes, and hair....

Not to critique too much, but on the back of the issue...the page that says "Next issue The time has come"..... whoops.... Dale has his LEG BACK and is standing. Obviously this was drawn in advance of the writing.

(Also, I know it is because she is in the foreground, but it looks like Andrea is grabbing Hershel's groin...especially cause the look and his face!!)

Sorry to pick out the small stuff...just trying to keep it real. You guys are great...keep up the good work.

Jerry Dickson.

That cover was done in advance of the issue, and more importantly it was SEEN by the public before the issue where Dale lost his leg came out. So to people who saw that cover--things would be spoiled if he had a peg leg or was on crutches or whatever. So yeah, he's got a full leg there-- but it's not a mistake, it's that way so we don't give things away. Also, there are TPB readers who see the covers to the singles issues months before they read the TPBs, so

I try to keep the covers as spoiler free as possible. It's all part of the plan.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I've read all of TWD and it is one of the best ongoing series being published today in any medium.

The narrative turns that this book has taken (especially during the Safe Behind Bars arc and the Woodbury excursion) have been gut wrenchingly marvelous. I had to literally put the book down during the rape scene because I needed a break from the horror that had filled me.

As much as I love your book I have two comments (rather than criticisms).

1) Even though I love the realistic black/white artwork of Adlard (so much so that I have--hanging in my apartment--an original page of Charlie's from TWD) lately I've been having a hard time keeping track of the growing cast of characters. Everyone, and I'm sorry for even thinking this...and if you totally disagree, please, say so and help me see it your way...everyone seems to look more and more similar. Sometimes I read a page and I think to myself, "Who is that?"

I understand that we're not dealing with iconic supermen and women...these are regular people...and I can't praise TWD team enough for depicting everyday people in your comic with verisimilitude...and I would totally be okay with it if you responded, "Charlie and I decided that in order to comment on the facelessness of the zombies we would slowly breakdown distinctions between the 'human' cast." But, seriously I don't think that's the case at all. Is it me? I know you're not the voice of the readership but am I the only one having this problem? Do you even think it's a problem?

Is it a problem for SOME people? Yeah... but you know what, there's really not a lot that can be done at this point. The characters DO look very different--VERY different. If I lined up headshots of all the characters you would see that they are very unique looking people and easy to tell apart... but sometimes, in the context of the story, I guess it can get a little confusing. All I can say is that the number of characters in the book will be getting cut back a bit over the next few months--maybe it won't be a problem then.

Here is my second comment:

2) There was a point earlier in the book when Rick had a talk with the guy on the farm about the zombies. It was a beautiful moment in the book. Perhaps the grandest when, for the first time, we, as readers, saw that people--within the world of TWD, did not all see the zombies in the same way. I think the man said something like, "They're not monsters. That is my son in there!" It was such a powerful moment that I smiled uncontrollably and I knew--at that very moment--that your world...our world, since every month you share it with me--had blossomed.

I miss those moments. Let me tell you why.

Lately your writing has focused on moments of characterization (perhaps to head off my first comment at the pass). These one page voyerisms haven't really been working for me. I use the word "voyerisms" because they often depict either two people isolated somewhere in the prison or, if these depicted moments occur in public they're spoken in (what I imagine are) hushed tones. I think the reason that I haven't really been feeling them is because they're too short. The overarching narrative to the book is plodding and methodical--much like the biters and roamers themselves--but the brevity of the short vignettes is too much of contrast, I think.

The effect the conversation Rick had on the farm has yet to be duplicated in such a packed and concise way. (except maybe when one of the arcs finished with the twist reading of your title.) Instead, you and your team have duplicated the effect in more a sustained manner (namely the group moving into the prison and the discovery and escape from Woodbury) and that is, perhaps, even more impressive. But, I can't help but miss those moments of thoughtfulness at the Otherness that your book has seemed to pass up lately in order so that the characters can become more familiar to us.

I guess what I'm still trying to gauge is, what is at the core of your book? I read it as a realistic metaphor not realism with touches of metaphor. How do you, and the other members of the team, view your book?

Yours truly,
Steffan DelPiano

Well, uh... I view it as a continuing tale of human suffering. There will be short scenes and long scenes. Things will speed up and slow down, but in the end it will be a chronicle of years of suffering endured by a group of (hopefully) realistic characters who have grown and changed over time. That's the plan at least. There will be more scenes like the one you mentioned, I promise. There's a lot of life left in this book, yet.

And there you go--another end to another letters column.

I hope to see you all back here next month.

See you then!
-Robert Kirkman

NÚMERO 44

SALA DE MONTAJE

con Robert Kirkman

TWD (44)

(1) (W) GOB: YA! (W)- ARMAS - BLAM BLAM BLAM (W) DISPAROS (W) ZOMBIS RECIBIENDO TIROS.

(2) (W) HERSHEL CONMOCIONADO - AL SUELO. (W)

(3) 2 PÁGINAS -- DISCURSO DEL GOB.

(4) (1) GOB RECIBE UN TIRO. (2) ANDREA EN LA TORRE. PUTO CASCO -- SE LO QUITA...

(5) (Ø) ANDREA MATA A MÁS -- TODOS DISPARAN GOB GRITANDO (3) (5) GOB DICIENDO "LA TORRE, LA TORRE!" "¿EH?" (4)(5) DISPARO.

(6) ¿A TODA PÁGINA? TIRO EN LA CABEZA A ANDREA! POR DETRÁS LA SANGRE SALE DESPEDIDA EN EL AIRE.

(7) REANUDAN LA MATANZA DE ZOMBIS. HABLAN DE TIEMPO + MUNICIÓN. ¿POR QUÉ NO PASAMOS EL TANQUE POR ENCIMA DE LAS VALLAS?

(8)(9) ¿QUÉ ESTÁS HACIENDO? HAN DEJADO DE DISPARAR. ¿QUÉ DEBERÍAMOS HACER? ESTÁN ATACANDO POR UN FLANCO -- DEBERÍAMOS HUIR! NO! PUEDE QUE LO HAYAN PLANEADO! AQUÍ ESTAMOS MÁS SEGUROS. IDIOTA. "¿SABES REPARARLAS?" ¿DE QUÉ SERVIRÍA ESTE LUGAR CON LAS VALLAS CAÍDAS?

(10) DISCURSO DEL GOB ABRID LAS PUERTAS! ABRID LA PUERTA INTERIOR. DEJAD TODAS LAS ARMAS + TRAJES ANTIDISTURBIOS Y CERRAD LA VALLA CON LLAVE. ELIMINAREMOS A LOS MORDEDORES... PODEMOS AYUDARNOS MUTUAMENTE.

(11) ¿GOB ESPERA INMÓVIL? "REANUDAD EL ATAQUE!"

(12) EL TANQUE PASA POR ENCIMA DE LOS ZOMBIS. GOB EN EL CAMIÓN CON GABE HABLANDO. HOMBRES EN LA PARTE DE ATRÁS DEL CAMIÓN -- ALEJAN A LOS ZOMBIS.

(13) EL EJÉRCITO AVANZA DISPARANDO! RICK + COMPAÑÍA CORREN.

(14) GLENN EN LA OTRA TORRE, DISPARANDO. "GOB -- MATAD A ESE IMBÉCIL!"

(15) DISPARAN A GLENN... RICK + COMPAÑÍA AVANZAN -- TAMBIÉN ATACAN -- SE MUEVEN PARA DISPARAR A RICK -- DISPARAN.

(16) ANDREA -- VIVA! CON EL CASCO PUESTO -- SANGRE EN LA CARA.

(17) (W) RICK DISPARA -- (W) WOODBURY DISPARA (W) ANDREA -- DISPARA (W) GLENN DISPARA (W) WOODBURY DISPARA.
← RECIBE UN TIRO.

(18)(19) RETIRADA. GOB VE DEMASIADOS MUERTOS. RETIRADA -- HOMBRES EN LOS CAMIONES SE ALEJAN A TODA VELOCIDAD DE LOS ZOMBIS.

(20) HABLAN DE PLANES -- RICK SE PONE DE PIE -- CURAN A ANDREA.

(21) MÁS CHARLA. RICK CAE DETRÁS DE LA MULTITUD... (W) (W) SE DAN LA VUELTA.

(22) RICK! ← VEN LO QUE PASA.

- RICK
- LORI
- CARL
- SOPHIA
- DALE
- ANDREA
- BEN + BILLY
- MICHONNE
- TYREESE
- GLENN
- MAGGIE
- HERSHEL
- BILLY
- AXEL
- PATRICIA
- ALICE.

Esto fue un auténtico espectáculo de acción. Esta serie, por lo menos para mí, siempre fue sobre el trauma emocional que supone el apocalipsis zombi. Iba sobre personajes que lidiaban con el dolor y que cambiaban al sobrevivir a este mundo. En realidad, nunca fue un cómic de acción. Por eso, cuando aparecían números como este (y los cinco siguientes o así), siempre era un placer ver lo bien que Charlie Adlard gestionaba los cambios de marcha de esta serie.

A ver, tíos... mirad este número. Es genial. Hay tantos paneles llenos de dinamismo. Es fantástico.

Como veréis en la esquina inferior derecha de la página, ha vuelto la lista de personajes. Siempre fue complicado manejar el elenco de esta serie. Especialmente para este período, en el que todos estaban activos y todos se encontraban dentro de la prisión. A ver, soy humano. No ha ocurrido nunca (que yo sepa), pero es totalmente posible olvidarse de personajes y no incluirlos en un número por error.

Os prometo que siempre que un personaje no ha salido en un número, ha sido a propósito.

Esas marquitas que se ven junto a los nombres: Lori, Tyreese, Hershel, Billy, Patricia. Creo que estaba anotando personajes para los que necesitaba un hueco. Eso creo. Por lo tanto, mientras hacía la trama, miraba la lista y decía: "Tengo que mencionar a esta persona de alguna forma", y luego pensaba en algo.

Esta trama está muy cargada. Sin duda, otro de esos números en los que había mucha trama, y tenía que meterla en el número. No sé si todo el mundo es consciente de ello, pero la acción es una de las cosas más complicadas de hacer en los cómics porque depende mucho del movimiento para contar la historia, y en los cómics solo hay imágenes fijas. Así que hacen falta MUCHOS paneles para que la acción se desarrolle adecuadamente. Por eso, si no tienes cuidado, una secuencia de acción puede devorar páginas en un abrir y cerrar de ojos. Así que siempre resulta complicado sintetizar las imágenes en paneles individuales que cuenten la historia de la mejor manera posible y que no ocupen demasiado espacio.

Hasta hace unos 30 años, el dibujante se encargaba de todo esto. El guionista escribía tramas sencillas (o las dictaba por teléfono) y el dibujante, en mayor o menor medida, se ponía a trabajar a su rollo, decidiendo por completo el número de páginas de cada escena y el número de paneles de cada página.

Yo también he hecho cómics de esa manera, y es bastante divertido y gratificante. Sin embargo, al final me parece cosa de vagos (por lo menos a mí), y prefiero controlar personalmente los pasos de página.

NOTAS DE PÁGINA:

1: ¿Es esto lo más que se ha acercado una trama a la página final? Es posible.

3: Se puede ver que está en blanco, pero a la derecha dice "2 páginas - discurso del Gob". Ya había planeado la página 9, así que planeé estas páginas en la posición 10 y 11 y luego dibujé esa flecha para moverlas arriba.

4: Esto se convierte en la página 6. Y cada página posterior se desliza dos páginas hacia abajo.

6: Originalmente, había imaginado el falso disparo a la cabeza de Andrea desde atrás, de modo que la sangre que saliera disparada hacia vosotros lo tapara. A fin de cuentas, quería que la gente pensara que había muerto, pero no quería que fuera poco creíble que la hubiera rozado. Así que Charlie y yo optamos por que el roce en la frente estuviera en el lado opuesto de la cabeza y que el disparo tuviera MUY poca sangre.

8-9: Observad que aquí solo hay diálogo. Solo apunto lo que la gente dice lo más rápido posible. Sabía que iban a estar inmovilizados, así que solo intentaba anotar la conversación antes de que se me olvidara. No era necesario dictar acciones aquí.

12: Me preocupa haber hecho esta parte del "flautista de Hamelín" tres veces diferentes en la serie. Sé que lo hice al menos dos veces. Pero no es tan embarazoso como hacer dos veces el numerito del "cerdito, cerdito, déjame entrar", que aparecerá más adelante... spoilers.

13: Según parece, que el pobre Axel recibiera un disparo se agregó en el último momento en la etapa de guion.

16: Es muy posible que quisiera que esto fuera a toda página, pero al final no hubo espacio para ello.

17: Fijaos en "Rick dispara + recibe un tiro". Incluso se puede VER a Rick recibiendo un disparo en esta página, aunque Charlie hizo un trabajo BRILLANTE para que se viera, pero sin llamar la atención. Incluso se está agarrando la herida en el último panel de la página 19, y apuesto a que aún no os habíais dado cuenta de esto. Además, resulta extraño que Rick no esté presente en la historia a partir de este punto, claramente preocupado por el hecho de haber recibido un disparo.

18-19: "Retirada" era una abreviatura, y todo el asunto del Gobernador pegándole a su hombre se añadió en el guion.

20: "Rick se pone de pie". No quería dar pistas, así que al final saqué a Rick de esta página.

21: Qué tonto eres Robert, hacer que Rick se caiga al suelo en la página 21 echaría a perder el paso de página. Por suerte, el sentido común prevaleció en la versión final.

22: Está claro que sabía lo que había que hacer aquí solo con "¡RICK!" Heh.

PORTADA
ASHLEY WOOD

"Dios mío--Espero que estemos haciendo lo correcto."

DAVID FINCH

CHARLIE ADLARD

PAOLO RIVERA

NÚMERO 45

¡DISPONIBLE 17 DE AGOSTO, 2022!

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La *PRESENTACIÓN DELUXE* de la épica del horror de supervivencia, contada nuevamente a todo color... comienza aquí.

PORTADA ORIGINAL DEL NÚMERO 44 DE
CHARLIE ADLARD* & *CLIFF RATHBURN

RATED **M** / MATURE

ROBERT KIRKMAN CHARLIE ADLARD DAVE McCAIG

THE WALKING DEAD

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